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Why this species remains confined only to certain ponds of a large number which are situated in Plymouth County, and why this locality is so isolated from the rest of its range, are questions which require further study. The fact remains that this terrapin is an interesting addition to the fauna of Massachusetts.

H. L. BABCOCK,
Boston, Mass.

[Director Frederic A. Lucas, of the American Museum of Natural History, with whom the editor has frequently discussed the occurrence of *Pseudemys* at Plymouth, has kindly furnished the following notes.—J. T. N.]

OCCURRENCE OF PSEUDEMYIS AT PLYMOUTH, MASS.

Having been the first, so far as I am aware, to recognize the occurrence of *Pseudemys rubriventris* at Plymouth, Mass., I am glad of the opportunity to present a few notes in regard to the species.

In 1869 I found the carapace of what I now know to be this species lying by the roadside on Sparrow's Hill, about half a mile from Billington Sea. At the time I was acquainted only with the local species of turtles and simply recognized the carapace as belonging to some species that I had never seen, but suggestive of a huge "snake" turtle (the local name for the Painted Terrapin).

From 1869 to 1905 I saw very little of Plymouth. On September 15, 1905, I took two fully grown females of *Pseudemys rubriventris* in Upper West Pond. They were fighting and held on to each other so tenaciously that they allowed themselves to be taken into the boat with my landing net and did not let go for some time. As a matter of record, one of these specimens was sent to the Museum of Comparative Zoology and one to the U. S. National Mus-

eum, where Doctor Stejneger confirmed my offhand recognition of the species. My friend, Mr. Nickerson, told me that he had seen a turtle of this kind some years previous in Boot Pond.

On May 27, 1911, when passing Island Pond (the one near Gunner's Exchange) I saw several specimens, supposedly of this species, sunning themselves on the rocks on the eastern side of the pond. Upon stopping the carriage to get a better look at them, they immediately plunged into the water. A little later in the day a specimen in Hoyt's Pond swam from the shore directly under the boat, almost within reach of the dip net, and still later, in Gunner's Exchange, several of these specimens were seen on shore, but they literally ran to the water as soon as our boat came within sight, so that it was impossible to capture one. Hoyt's Pond is not given on the U. S. G. S. map, but it immediately adjoins Gunner's Exchange, and the two formerly were connected. Owing to the shrinkage of all the ponds about Plymouth, the two have been rarely united of late years.

On September 15, 1911, I found a carapace of this turtle in a cottage near Micajah's Pond, and was told by Mr. Standish that he had taken it there a year or two previous.

Finally, on September 26, 1913, I found, when returning from College Pond, a large specimen in the middle of the road about half a mile from Crooked Pond. It was so extremely snappy that I did not attempt to keep it.

That this species was not earlier recognized in the vicinity of Plymouth is not so surprising as it may seem. It is, as Mr. Barbour has noted, extremely shy, and even when seen or taken, there was probably no one in Plymouth who would have been acquainted with the species, but would, as I did when a boy, think it might possibly be an overgrown Painted Turtle.

Island Pond is the only one where it would probably be possible to capture specimens of this turtle with the seine. I had arranged with Mr. Barbour to seine this pond and obtained the permit for this purpose, but owing to circumstances this was never done.

Nigger Pond, included in Mr. Babcock's notes, is not on the map, but is a small, privately-owned pond, being under the twenty-acre limit, near the heel of Boot Pond.

Hallfield or Hillfield Pond is not given on the map, nor included in Davis's list of ponds, nor is it known to myself or to any of my friends. I am inclined to think the name is an error for "Half-way Pond." If so, this would extend the known range of *P. rubriventris* in Plymouth by about four miles.

It may be said that some of the names given on the U. S. G. S. map are not those in use in Plymouth. For example, Ellis Pond above West Pond, should properly be called Sabey Pond. In many instances the apostrophe is omitted, so that we have King Pond, Micajah Pond, etc., when they should be King's Pond, Micajah's Pond, etc.

The weight of ten pounds ascribed to this species is undoubtedly too great. The actual weight of a specimen of the allied *P. mobiliensis*, having a carapace 13 inches long, is only 6½ pounds; so that 5 to 6 pounds is probably the weight of a full grown *rubriventris*.

F. A. LUCAS,
New York, N. Y.